



Building's namesake a champion for UMass Medical School

A stalwart champion for UMass Medical School, Albert "Albie" Sherman made it his life's work to raise the image of the preeminent research and medical education center in Worcester.

Now, in a fitting twist of fate, UMMS and the Massachusetts Legislature are heralding Sherman's accomplishments, with a \$400-million, state-of-the-art research center and educational facility bearing his name.

"It's hard to say just how much this means to me," said Sherman, the former UMMS vice chancellor for university relations credited with more than two decades of service to the institution as a tireless ambassador. "But it truly means a great deal."

"It is a major league thing in my life to have a building named after me; a building in which medical research will be done to help humanity and aspiring doctors will learn their craft," he added.

Sherman, a trained pharmacist, veteran public health advocate and longtime Jewish community leader, began his role at UMMS in 1989. He was responsible for federal and state relations, and served as a governmental liaison. A native Bostonian, he earned a bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences and went on to work for Boston University in development before coming to Worcester.

He has served on numerous local, national and international boards including the Massachusetts Public Health Council, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, Anti-Defamation League, Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, Greater Boston Association for Retarded Citizens, New England-Israel Chamber of Commerce, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston and the Fire Safety Council of Greater Boston.

The proud grandfather of three has spent his life dedicated to others, his wife, Linda said. The couple has two sons, Matthew and Peter, who is engaged to Tali Golan; a daughter, Risa, married to Daniel Katcher; and three grandchildren, William, Nolan and Lucy Katcher.

"It is so overwhelming to him that this building is being named after him," Linda said. "Everything he does, he does because he believes it is the right thing, the decent thing to do. That is how he lives his life."

The 512,000-square-foot Albert Sherman Center will expand and unify the UMMS Worcester campus, nearly double its research capacity and support the School of Medicine's new learner-centered curriculum. This interdisciplinary, cutting edge research and education building will foster interaction and collaboration among scientists and promote innovation and

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synergies across disciplines. The center will attract researchers, physicians, faculty, students and industry partners, enhancing the school's position as a leader in medical research and education.

"UMass Medical School is a world-class institution and I have a lot of pride in this building," Sherman said. "I'm a first-generation American, the son of Ukrainian parents who came here when they were teens. All they wanted was a great education for their children and they certainly provided that opportunity. In their wildest dreams, they, nor I for that matter, could never have envisioned an honor as significant as this. I know they would be proud of me, but even more so of the good that will benefit mankind from having this place."